Duke University Library
FEB 11 1955
Durham, N. C.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND HUMANITIES

english

Distributed as a supplement to THE CEA CRITIC, Volume XVII, No. 2, February, 1955, through co-operation of the Purdue University Department of English.

English has for many years been one of the most popular major fields in liberal arts colleges and universities. The reasons for this are the intrinsic interest and general cultural value of English studies and the great variety of vocations to which they may lead. Since 1950 the School of Science, Education, and Humanities has offered a complete undergraduate program in English. A master's degree in English was inaugurated at Purdue in 1953.

ENGLISH PROVIDES BROAD EDUCATION

Like other majors in the humanities, English contributes to a broad rather than a narrowly specialized education. The study of literature offers an opportunity for the understanding of human nature and experience which is helpful in all occupations. Skill in writing and knowledge of the workings of the English language provide tools for effective communication in many phases of business, industry, and the professions.

ENGLISH PREPARES FOR SPECIFIC CAREERS

There are, of course, several careers for which the English program of studies specifically prepares the student. One of these is teaching. There are more teachers of English than of any other subject in our junior and senior high schools, private schools, and colleges, and the demand for good teachers in this field is increasing.

The field of journalism offers another steadily expanding vocational opportunity for students of English. Writing and editing for newspapers, magazines, trade journals, house organs, and technical periodicals; script writing for radio and television; advertising and publicity work—all offer an increasing variety of careers for specialists in journalism or creative writing. Of increasing

The central English offices and classrooms are located in University Hall.

The Browsing Room is a pleasant and comfortable place to read the latest books.

The reading pacer is one of many devices for improving reading efficiency.

importance also are the various fields of technical writing. A basic education in chemistry, physics, biological sciences, engineering, agriculture, or home economics *plus* special training in writing is a combination much sought after by employers today.

Book publishing and library work are other fields in which knowledge of literature is essential. Success in many types of governmental work, including civil service and foreign service, also often depends upon skill in writing and critical reading. An English major provides one of the best possible foundations for the law and the ministry, in which a thorough knowledge of language processes and skill in writing are essential.

ENGLISH PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR CAREERS IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

One of the largest fields for which students of English are qualified is general business and non-technical positions in industry. Executive training programs in large commercial and manufacturing companies are open to students with broad training in English. Combinations of English with economics, business administration, or psychology lead frequently to management positions. For women, especially, a major in English plus a knowledge of typing and office procedures is the best possible training for secretarial work, the path by which most women enter the business world.

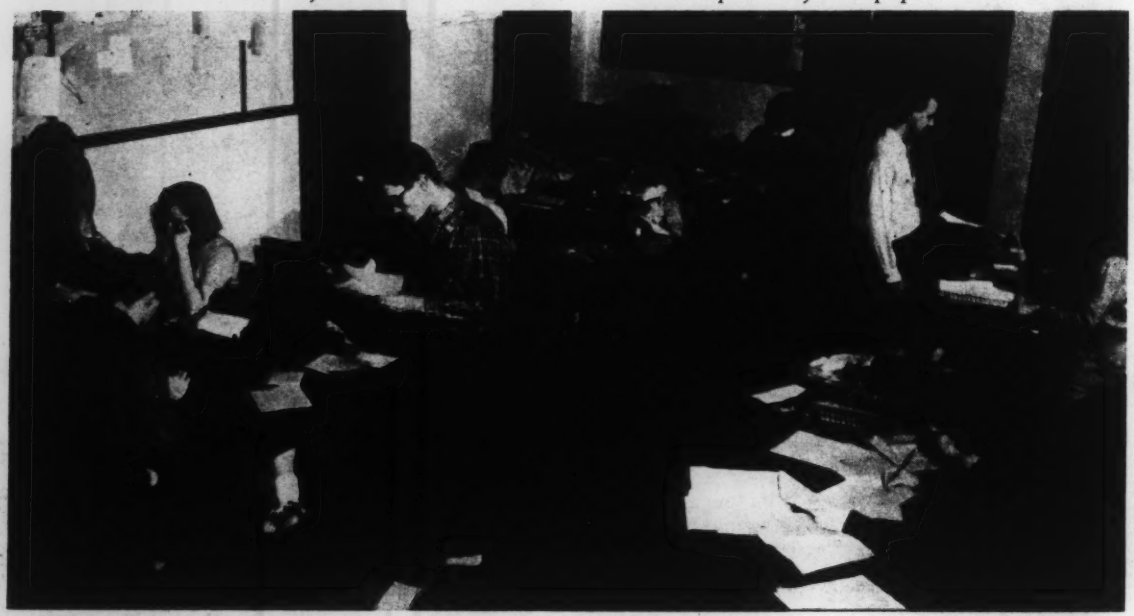
PROGRAMS OF STUDY IN ENGLISH AT PURDUE

The student interested in English may choose from a number of different areas of concentration or majors within the School of Science, Education, and Humanities:

Teaching English and Speech:

This area is planned to satisfy the requirements for high school teaching in English and Speech. It includes extensive work in three departments of the University—English, Speech, and Education—and qualifies the student to teach either in junior or senior high schools. In Indiana, and in many other states, teachers must be qualified to teach two or more subjects. English and Speech make an excellent combination of subjects because they are frequently taught together in high schools.

Student journalists write and edit the campus daily newspaper.



Movies and other audio-visual aids are used in literature classes.

Teaching English and a Foreign Language:

This area is planned to satisfy the requirements for high school teaching of English and one or more foreign languages. At Purdue University, foreign language study is available in Spanish, French, German, and Russian. Teachers customarily find high school positions only in Spanish, French, and occasionally German, in combination with English.

English and American Literature:

English literature is important as one of the great literatures of the world and as an integral part of the American heritage. American literature affords one of the best means of understanding the development of the native democratic spirit that has enabled our nation to become a leading world power. The study of English and American literature is an excellent liberal arts foundation for later specialized preparation for law, the ministry, library science, and college teaching. Secretarial work, publishing, editing, writing for radio and television, advertising, some business and civil service positions, and public relations are other careers for which a background in literature is useful.

American Civilization:

This program offers the student a unified view and analysis of the literature, history, and social developments in the United States. In addition to studying the whole range of American civilization, the student may specialize, within this area, in a field of his choice, such as American literature or American history. This integrated program, like the concentrated program in literature, is good liberal arts background for a variety of careers requiring a broad cultural background.

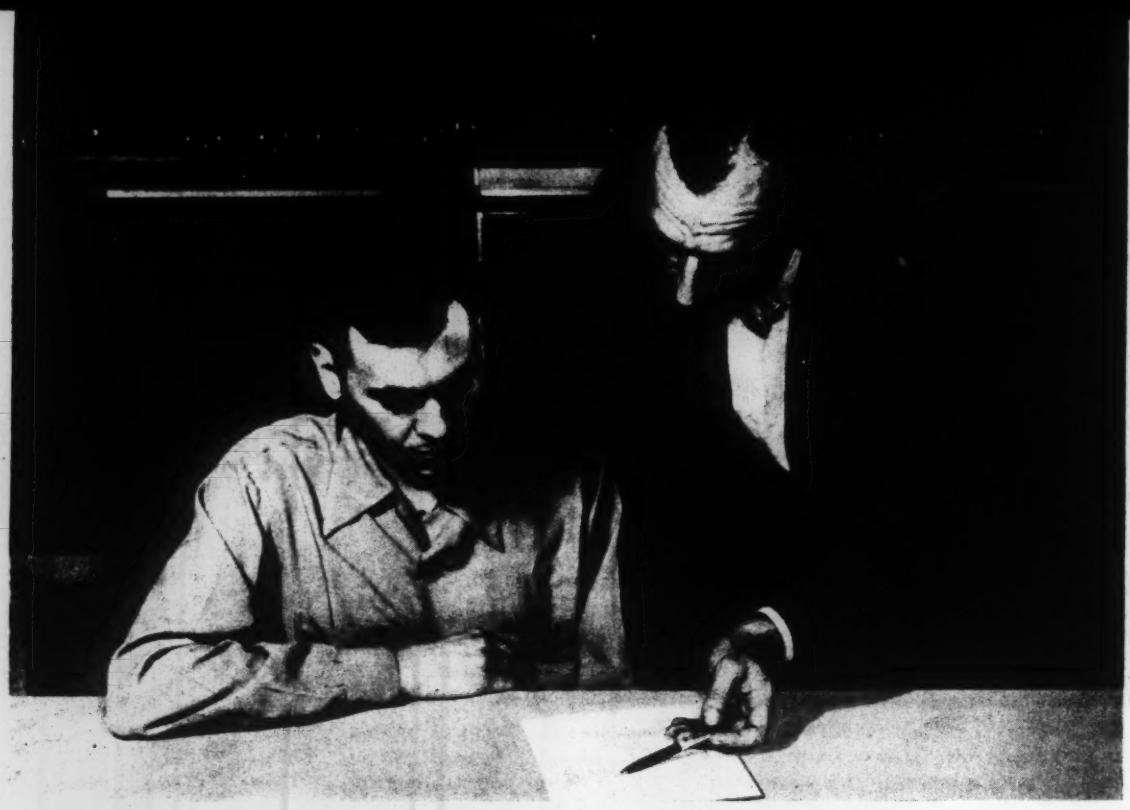
Creative Writing:

Skill in creative writing equips the student for specialized positions in several fields, including journalism, radio, television, publishing, advertising, and free-lance writing. Specialized courses such as Playwriting and Short Story Writing, and diversified courses such as Creative Writing and Directed Writing afford opportunities for instruction and directed practice in many forms of writing.

Journalism:

There are two widely-supported contrasting views as to the best method of preparing for a career in journalism. One view is that extensive and specific preparation through courses in journalism develops good journalists. The other view is that general liberal arts education, which stresses broad study in the arts, humanities, and sciences, prepares better for journalism.

At Purdue, the student interested in a career in journalism may choose a program of study in some liberal arts field; or he may select a program which stresses somewhat more the study of journalism as such.



Regular classroom instruction is supplemented by individual conferences with staff members.

For the student who decides to take a specialized program in journalism, courses are offered in general news coverage, feature writing, editing, agricultural and technical journalism, and the history of journalism. Practical experience is available on the staffs of the student daily newspaper and various campus magazines.

Technical Writing:

In the past few years the demand has increased for graduating seniors who have a scientific background as well as training and interest in writing. The opportunities for employment have come mainly from industry, where positions are open requiring knowledge of science or engineering, along with skill in writing. With this growing demand in mind, the English department has planned, with the science departments, a program of study in technical writing. Similar arrangements are being planned with the Schools of Engineering, Agriculture, and Home Economics.

The Purdue Library contains an excellent collection of books and periodicals for students of English. A number of extra-curricular activities provide added opportunities for students. The student newspaper and the campus journals have already been mentioned. Honorary fraternities for students in literature, creative writing, and journalism provide opportunities for students to meet together, and talk shop. Frequent lectures by visiting writers and critics and public lectures by members of the English faculty supplement the regular instruction. Literary contests and awards annually give recognition to the most promising student writers.

Each student majoring in English chooses, as soon as possible after enrolling at Purdue, a member of the English faculty to act as his or her adviser on academic and vocational matters throughout the college years.

For further information write to:

Director of Admissions
Executive Building
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana